**Adult Roles/Male and Female**

*This makes boys stop and laugh as Baker runs up*

BAKER: Ahhh…thank you Father…you caught the little thief.

FATHER: What did he do?

BAKER: Stole this bread - and who knows what else!

CHARLIE: But you said I could!

BAKER: Thieves and liars…all of them…a person can’t run a decent business around here with them running around wild…just look at ‘em Father…beggars, lazy, no good boys!

*CHARLIE starts crying*

FATHER: Now are you sure there wasn’t some kind of misunderstanding about the bread?

CHARLIE *(crying):* She said I could have one…

BAKER: I said he could have one of the day old rolls, but he took an entire loaf right before my eyes! I can’t afford to give away whole loaves Father!

FATHER: Could it be he didn’t understand which loaf you meant…an easy mistake for anyone.

OFFICER enters: What’s goin’ on here?

BAKER: This boy stole from my shop!

*MERCHANT enters*

MERCHANT: And that boy threw this rock through my window! Forty-four dollars to replace it!

FATHER *whistles:* Forty-four dollars…that must be some rock!

MERCHANT (*sarcastically*): Forty four dollars for the window…not the rock, Father.

FATHER: Forgive me, Sir…I was just hoping to lighten the moment a bit…under the circumstances.

MERCHANT: There’s nothing light about it…these *circumstances* call for an arrest! Officer?

OFFICER: Yeah, well it ain’t the first time I’m sure. All right, all of you come with me…and you too! (*points to Paulie and Howard)*

HOWARD: What’d we do?

OFFICER: Loitering. Let’s go…to juvenile court…now!

JUDGE: Back so soon Officer Dailey?

OFFICER: Yes well, it’s a bit busy downtown…

JUDGE: What do you have then?

OFFICER: These two boys were caught in the act of petty larceny and destruction of private property.

JUDGE: Can you be a little more specific?

OFFICER: This one stole a loaf of bread from the bakery and this one threw a rock through the mercantile window. The others were loitering and who knows what else.

JUDGE: Hmm, well… looks like reform school again.

CHARLIE: But I didn’t steal the bread…

OFFICER: That’s enough out of you!

FATHER: Excuse me your Honor…I can’t help but notice the boys have no one to speak on their behalf. This is a court of law… Even the youth are entitled to a fair trial.

OFFICER: No one invited you to this party, Father, so why don’t you take your morals and theology somewhere else.

FATHER: God is everywhere, therefore his servants must also be.

JUDGE: Father, I have thirty or forty of these cases every week! What am I to do with them? Most of them simply need a warm meal and a bath, not punishment! They come in here after a little bit of trouble, and I have to decide where to send them? I can’t send them home… that would mean a fate worse than reform school!

FATHER: Parole them to me and I will see to it that they are taken care of!

OFFICER: You’re mad!

FATHER: Perhaps, but fortunately that doesn’t fall in your precinct, so you needn’t worry.

OFFICER: Oh…for the love of…

JUDGE: Father, I do not see how you are going to manage this? These boys do not understand rules, let alone God, if you forgive me for saying so…

FATHER: I understand your concern, but while they may not know God, as you say, He knows them, and that is all that’s needed.

JUDGE: Very well. I give you guardianship of these boys since no parent or authority has stepped forward on their behalf. But should they appear in my court again, I will not be so lenient. Is that understood?

*Father Flanagan with Archbishop in office*

ARCHBISHOP: You are convinced this is the right thing to do then? It will mean turning the Workingmen’s Hotel over to someone else or closing it down altogether?

FATHER: Yes, but I fully believe the only way to win this battle, is to meet these men as *boys*…then their lives can be changed for something better. My work with them has convinced me of the need for this home.

ARCHBISHOP: Very well. You have my permission. I’m going to contact the Mother Superior of the Notre Dame Sisters…I’ll see if she can spare a few nuns to help you teach the boys. I’m sure you’ll welcome their help?

FATHER: Yes… thank you. Many of these boys have had very little education. Oh, and I have found a house, the old Reed mansion. A friend has generously offered to help us. (pause) Bishop…I want to warn you that there may be some trouble since this home will be open to all boys…no matter their race or creed.

ARCHBISHOP: I’d already thought of that…but you’ve stated your mission very clearly, and I believe you are right to do so, for the children do not belong to the *streets* but rather to the kingdom of God.

COUNCILMAN: Order…Order…we must now bring this meeting to order. We will now listen to your concerns on the matter of the Home for Boys.

WOMAN 1: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know why a reform school for boys is being allowed in a residential neighborhood? I have heard several of them have criminal records! I no longer feel safe in my home!

WOMAN 2: It’s bringing the whole neighborhood down, that’s what it’s doing. Why that priest has the doors open to every kind of “boy” this side of the Missouri!

COUNCILMAN: Order, order!

CLERGYMAN: May I speak for a moment?

COUNCILMAN: Yes Pastor Sorenson.

CLERGYMAN: As a man of God, I’d like to point out that this situation is not normal. These boys will have no chance of survival in the real world once they’ve grown. They’ll be under the delusion that they are free to live and work and worship anywhere they choose, when we all know that is not possible, nor a part of God’s design.

*People clap/cheer etc.*

*Other people chime in*

COUNCILMAN: Thank you Pastor, we’ll discuss it and put it to a vote at our next hearing.

*People move off to exit and Herbertz moves downstage to councilman*

HERB: Got anything for the *World Tribune* Councilman?

COUNCILMAN: Did you see that, Hal? I nearly had a riot in there! Now, don’t print that, but what on God’s green earth does that priest think he’s doing, bringing vagrants and delinquents into a home like that? Besides the sheer number of boys, I agree with Pastor Sorenson, if God had wanted everyone to live together, why did He make them different? Segregation is a part of God’s order and not what this priest is doing.